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Stone praises politicos' drive to open JFK files

BY DENNIS WHARTON

WASHINGTON—"JFK" director Oliver Stone yesterday praised members of Congress for offering a resolution that would open all federal files related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The resolution—prompted by allegations made in the Stone film that the JFK assassination had been the result of a massive government conspiracy—was offered jointly in the Senate and House of Representatives by Sen. David Boren (D-Okla.) and Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio).

Under the proposal, federal records regarding the Kennedy assassination that were to have remained sealed until 2029 would be made public.

Stone called the introduction of the resolution "the first step toward giving Americans a complete and honest look at the most grievous act of this century in our country's history. This legislation ... could be the key that unlocks the answers to questions troubling Americans since 1963."

Resolution mandates a review of all Kennedy assassination documents, and establishes a five-member panel to oversee the review. Records would be released through the National Archives.

The review board is given the opportunity to deny release of records that could hurt current intelligence-gathering efforts or interfere with legitimate personal privacy interests of witnesses.

Stokes said, "While no one will be fully satisfied with the lines the resolution draws in balancing the need for full disclosure with the interest of privacy and other concerns, I am confident (it) is fair."

Stokes said the resolution will enable Americans "to ascertain fact from fiction surrounding the death of their president."

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